

TOP SECRET

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EYES ONLY

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 17

TO PETER RODMAN/WINSTON LORD FOR MR. KISSINGER

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CITE WH30304

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TOHAK 17

MORI/CDF C03339823

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FEBRUARY 8, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR :

THE PRESIDENT

FROM :

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT :

INFORMATION ITEMS

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SITUATION IN INDOCHINA: THERE WAS AN OVERALL DECREASE IN ENEMY-INITIATED ACTIVITY IN VIETNAM, WITH 14 MAJOR AND 127 MINOR VIOLATIONS REPORTED. TOTAL CASUALTIES WERE 170 ENEMY AND 56 FRIENDLY KILLED YESTERDAY.

TEN OF THE 14 MAJOR VIOLATIONS TOOK PLACE IN MILITARY REGION 1, SIX OF THEM ATTACKS-BY-FIRE NEAR QUANG TRI CITY. IN THE 1ST DIVISION SECTOR, ENEMY TROOPS FIRED OVER 300 MORTAR ROUNDS INTO FRIENDLY POSITIONS SOUTHEAST OF HUE. IN ANOTHER ACTION IN THIS SECTOR, ENEMY ROCKETS WERE FIRED INTO ARTILLERY POSITIONS NORTHWEST OF HUE. VNAF REPORTED DESTROYING SEVEN TANKS IN THE AREA YESTERDAY. HEAVY FIGHTING TOOK PLACE IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE, WHERE GOVERNMENT TROOPS REPORT PROGRESS IN THE ATTEMPT TO RETAKE SA HUYNH.

COMBAT ACTIVITY WAS GENERALLY LIGHT AND SCATTERED IN MILITARY REGION 2, EXCEPT IN THE HIGHLANDS WHERE THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO RESIST ARVN EFFORTS TO REOPEN ROUTE 14 SOUTH OF KONTUM CITY. ENEMY ACTION ALONG THE COAST IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE AS ROK FORCES COMPLETE THEIR WITHDRAWAL. ROUTE 1 IS REPORTED OPEN THROUGHOUT THE REGION AND A CONVOY MOVED FROM QUI NHON TO TUY HOA YESTERDAY WITHOUT INCIDENT.

THERE WERE NO MAJOR VIOLATIONS IN MILITARY REGION 3 AND ONLY THREE IN MILITARY REGION 4, WHERE INDIRECT FIRE WAS DIRECTED AT FRIENDLY FORCES NORTH OF CAO LANH, SOUTHWEST OF CHAU DOC CITY, AND WEST OF MY THO.

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IN CAMBODIA, ENEMY FORCES CONTINUED PRESSURE ON ROUTE 15 NORTH OF NEAK LUONG. GOVERNMENT TROOPS REPORTED RECEIVING HEAVY ATTACKS BY FIRE AND GROUND PROBES THERE AND THE LOSS OF A SECTION OF THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG RIVER. TO THE EAST, ENEMY GUNNERS HARASSED THE DEFENDERS OF SVAY RIENG CITY. BECAUSE OF REDUCED COMMUNIST PRESSURE ON ROUTE 2 SOUTH OF TAKEO CITY, THE GOVERNMENT DECLARED THE ROAD OPEN TO THE BORDER.

THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUE TO PRESS GOVERNMENT FORCES NEAR PAKSONG ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN LAOS, BUT LITTLE FIGHTING IS REPORTED IN THE FAR NORTHWEST. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE SHIFTING UNITS AWAY FROM BOUAM LONG IN THE PLAINE DES JARRES AREA, APPARENTLY IN REACTION TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS THERE. U.S. PILOTS FLEW 271 ATTACK AND 50 B-52 SORTIES IN LAOS YESTERDAY.

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